



# MINUTES

## Council

<b>Date:</b>	Monday, 7 December 2020
<b>Venue:</b>	Via Zoom
<b>Members Present:</b>	Mayor (Councillor Angela Jacques) Deputy Mayor (Councillor Richard Redcliffe)  Councillors Ben Aitken, Frank Andrews, Peter Anthony, Tim Armit, Mark Bamforth, Brenda Blackshaw, Julie Brickles, Karen Buckley, Alan Clayton, Delma Collins, Peter Collins, Chris Dixon, Sue Fazackerley MBE, Trevor Fiddler, Ellie Gaunt, Brian Gill, Shirley Green, Noreen Griffiths, Peter Hardy, Will Harris, Gavin Harrison, Paul Hayhurst, Paul Hodgson, John Kirkham, Matthew Lee, Cheryl Little, Michelle Morris, Kiran Mulholland, Ed Nash, Sally Nash-Walker, Jayne Nixon, Linda Nulty, Liz Oades, David O'Rourke, Bobby Rigby, Michael Sayward, Vince Settle, John Singleton JP, Roger Small, Ray Thomas, Tommy Threlfall, Stan Trudgill and Viv Willder, Michael Withers.
<b>Officers Present:</b>	Allan Oldfield, Tracy Manning, Ian Curtis, Katharine McDonnell, Lyndsey Lacey-Simone, Ross McKelvie, Kassie Naravassi and the Reverend Christopher Scargill.

### 1. Declarations of Interest

Members were reminded that any disclosable pecuniary interests should be declared as required by the Localism Act 2011 and any personal or prejudicial interests should be declared as required by the Council's Code of Conduct for Members.

Councillors Armit, Bamforth, Fiddler, Nixon and Threlfall all declared a prejudicial interest in item 9, Council Tax Reduction Scheme. The members left the meeting for the duration of the item.

### 2. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 19 October 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

### 3. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor advised she had recently attended a HomeStart meeting via Zoom, which was both enjoyable and informative. She had also had the pleasure of joining the virtual Christmas Lights Switch On for Lytham. The Mayor offered her thanks to Councillor Blackshaw and her team for organising the event.

The Mayor expressed her honour of being able to lay wreaths, together with the Deputy Mayor, at St Annes and Lytham to commemorate the fallen on Remembrance Sunday.

### 4. Chief Executive's Communications

The Chief Executive had none on this occasion.

5. Questions from Members of the Council

No questions had been received on this occasion.

6. Questions from Members of the Public

No questions had been received from members of the public on this occasion.

7. Notice of Motion – Bobby Ball Memorial Statue

Following notice given under rule 11 of the Council Procedure Rules, the following Motion was proposed by Councillor Karen Buckley;

*“The council notes with sadness the recent passing of Bobby Ball, who brought laughter to millions over many years, and was well-known and well-loved in and about Lytham, where he chose to make his home. To mark and celebrate his life, it would be fitting for a statue of Bobby to be erected in Lowther Gardens, supported by public donations and with the backing of the council.*

*The council delegates responsibility to the Head of Governance, in consultation with the Leader and Chairman of the Tourism & Leisure Committee, to liaise with the family and Lowther Trust to set up an appropriate vehicle for this purpose and with a view to a report being brought to the next Tourism and Leisure Committee.”*

In proposing the motion, Councillor Buckley spoke about how well known and well loved, Bobby Ball was in Fylde. She advised he had lived in the Fylde for over 25 years. Councillor Buckley went on to state how Mr Ball was so very generous of his time and very much part of the local community. She advised he was a great supporter of Lowther Pavilion and had latterly become a patron of the Lowther Trust. He and his wife Yvonne were also Patrons of the Blue Skies Charity which supported the work of Blackpool Victoria and Clifton Hospitals. Councillor Buckley advised that Mr Ball’s lasting legacy would be one of happiness and joy. It would be fitting to reflect that joy in a statue of him, to be situated in Lowther Gardens. She concluded by advising that the proposal for a statue had the full support of Bobby’s family and the Lowther Gardens trust.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Little. Councillor Little and a number of other members shared their memories of Bobby Ball.

A vote was taken and it was AGREED unanimously to support the motion.

8. Notice of Motion to Rescind a Decision – Beach Exclusion Zone

Following a request being made in accordance with Procedure Rule 13, by way of a Notice of Motion and supported by Councillors Stan Trudgill, Mark Bamforth, Paul Hodgson, Alan Clayton, Viv Willder, Will Harris and John Kirkham, Councillor Roger Small proposed the following motion;

*“1. the decision made in relation to item 4 of the meeting of the Operational Management Committee held on November 10 2020 be reopened insofar as it relates to the extent of the exclusion zone to allow further consideration of the effects of the decision on the environmental recognitions that presently apply to the amenity beach.*

*2. A special meeting of the committee be arranged for the purpose of such consideration.”*

In proposing the motion, Councillor Small advised that since the committee had made the decision regarding the exclusion zone, environmental information had been received from Keep Britain Tidy, as such it was important for the decision to be reappraised by Committee. Councillor Small advised that the motion was supported by a cross-party group of members from the Operational Management Committee.

The motion was seconded by Councillor John Kirkham.

It was AGREED to support the motion.

9. Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2021/22

Councillor Karen Buckley introduced the proposed Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2021/22. She advised it had previously been considered by the Finance and Democracy Committee. It was proposed that the existing council tax reduction scheme should continue along with the hardship fund, and that the financial implications be reflected in the financial forecast.

Councillor Vince Settle seconded the proposal.

Having had due regard to the Equality Analysis as detailed in section 5 of the report, it was RESOLVED;

1. To approve the continuation of the existing CTRS scheme for 2021/22 as set out in section 3 of this report;
2. To approve the continuation of Discretionary Hardship Relief for 2021/22 to provide additional support for claimants in exceptional circumstances; and
3. To approve that, as necessary, the financial implications be reflected in the Council's Revenue Budget and Financial forecast for 2021/22 onwards.

Councillor Nixon, Threlfall, Fiddler, Armit and Bamforth left the meeting for the duration of the meeting.

10. Financial Forecast Update (including Revenue, Capital & Treasury Management 2020/21 to 2024/25)

Councillor Karen Buckley proposed the updated financial forecast, which had previously been considered by Finance and Democracy Committee. She referred members to Appendix Cii which detailed the significant changes due to the impact of the pandemic on the council's finances. The Section 151 Officer was nevertheless of the opinion that the Council's financial position remained robust, Councillor Buckley continued.

Councillor Buckley advised that since the agenda was published, the Government had announced the spending review, and, although the detail was still awaited, the strong indications were that it likely to be a single year allocation for 2021/22. She advised that the New Homes Bonus would again be awarded, but the Government had advised any future allocation was subject to review.

Councillor Vince Settle seconded the proposal.

It was RESOLVED;

1. That the Council approves this updated financial forecast; and
2. That the Council approve that the sum of £0.692m be transferred from the Funding Volatility Reserve into the M55 Link Road Reserve, ahead of the accumulation of further Business Rate growth receipts arising from the Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone, in order to confirm the availability of the full £2m contribution from Fylde Council to the scheme at this point, with an equivalent sum arising from business rates growth at the Enterprise Zone in future years being transferred into the Funding Volatility Reserve as and when such are growth is realised.

11. Mid Year Prudential Indicators and Treasury Management Monitoring Report 2020/21

Councillor John Singleton proposed the mid year monitoring report for the prudential indicators and treasury management.

Councillor Singleton provided a detailed overview of the prudential indicators for the council as at the 30 September 2020. He advised that at the mid year point, the council held £26.6m in cash and investment. He also reported that in April 2020 the Council has been in receipt of £21.7m in government grants to support local businesses during the pandemic. Consequently the Council's cashflow has varied significantly mainly due to the Government grants.

Councillor Singleton advised that the report had previously been considered by the Audit and Standards and was recommended for approval.

It was seconded by Councillor Ellie Gaunt.

It was RESOLVED;

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1. That the Prudential Indicators and the Investment Limits as detailed in Appendix B of the report be approved; and

2. That the limit for investment funds placed in each Money Market Fund to be increased from £2m to £3m and that the overall limit in respect of Money Market Funds be removed.

(Councillor Hayhurst joined the meeting partway through the item)

### 12. Boundary Commission Review

Councillor Karen Buckley introduced the proposed Council Size Submission drafted for consideration by the Council, by a cross party working group of members. She advised that, if approved, the submission would be presented to the Boundary Commission by 16 December for their consideration. If accepted it would reduce the number of Councillors at Fylde Council to 37 from 51.

Councillor Buckley outlined the approach taken by the working group in drafting the submission, which included benchmarking Fylde against its CIPFA family of local authorities; a proposed streamlining of the governance structure; and consideration of how community engagement was undertaken by members.

The submission was the first stage of an electoral review by the Boundary Commission, to determine the number of Councillors required for the effective operation of Fylde Council.

Councillor Buckley advised that the draft submission had been considered by the Finance and Democracy Committee, and a draft copy had also been sent to the Boundary Commission for comment. The Boundary Commission had provided on the draft, advising that the Commission had no issues with the draft and that it was a very comprehensive and convincing submission.

The proposed submission was seconded by Councillor Liz Oades.

Thanks were offered to the members of the working group and the officers would have supported the working group.

It was RESOLVED to approve the submission and request it be forwarded to the Local Government Boundary Commission for its consideration in determining the future number of Fylde Councillors.

### 13. Constitution Amendment – Terms of Reference - Committees

Councillor John Singleton proposed an amendment to the constitution which would make revisions to the terms of reference for the programme committees. He advised that the matter had previously been considered by the Audit and Standards Committee.

Councillor Singleton advised that the programme committee chairmen had reviewed the terms of reference relating to their committees. He provided a detailed overview of the proposed changes. Councillor Singleton advised that the sports development programme had erroneously been proposed for removal from the Tourism and Leisure Committee.

Councillor Ellie Gaunt seconded the proposal.

It was RESOLVED to approve the recommended proposed amendments to the terms of reference of the committees (Part 2 and Part 3 of the Council's Constitution – Responsibility for Functions), as reported by Councillor Singleton.

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